

November 3, 1977

Memo to File:

Re: Vipont Mines  
ACT/003/005  
Box Elder County, Utah

This operation was visited on the 26th of October by Ron Daniels and Mike Thompson. Mr. Tom Miller was present on site during the inspection. He briefly showed the Division staff his operation and plans for heap leaching and future underground mining.

Existing facilities consist of a shop building, several large tanks containing agitators, two (2) lined pits, and a complex system of plumbing which is used in the heap leaching process. Several items for inclusion in the plan were offered to Mr. Miller so that he can adequately address reclamation in his previously submitted plan.

Additional road drainage on the access road to the underground operation was offered as one (1) suggestion. In addition, Mr. Miller was asked to submit a map which exhibits surface facilities, including waste rock piles, tailings piles, and other aspects of his operation. Further, a seed mixture will be supplied for in the final reclamation of the site and a regrading cross section of the waste rock and tailings piles is needed.

Several concerns were presented to Mr. Miller and future determinations will be made on these concerns following the submission of a map by him. It is possible that the tailings piles which are planned to be located immediately below the operation could cause the entrance of leachates into Birch Creek, a perennial stream. The waste rock piles location envisioned by Mr. Miller will block a drainage above the operation. Steps should be taken to either divert around the waste rock pile or provide for drainage under the pile. A water discharge from a plastic pipe was discovered immediately below the leaching operation. Mr. Miller described this drainage as merely a bypass of the water supply to the leaching operation to prevent freezing pipes. Consequently, a water sample was taken from his pipe.

Additional water samples were taken from the existing mine drainage from the old Vipont portal and from the main stream of Birch Creek. Preliminary measurements of pH and electro conductivity indicated that all water sampled were of culinary quality. However, no biological measurements were obtained. Water samples will be further analyzed by the Utah State Division of Health. A sample of tailings material was obtained for soil analysis by this Division.

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COORDINATOR OF MINED  
LAND RECLAMATION